

THE JOURNAL.

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THE WEATHER.

Official forecasts for to-day indicate that there will be rain, with slightly falling temperature; easterly winds.

Dr. Joseph Chamberlain appears to have a very stubborn case of President Krueger on his hands.

Should Hon. Steve Elkins decide to enter the race, he will doubtless try the star route to the Presidency.

In case ex-Consul Waller attempts to pursue a lecture course, he may find himself in trouble on this side of the water.

Perhaps if he finds that Mr. Morton is unable to reach, Mr. Platt will permit Mr. Depeu to take on a dark horse appearance.

The Raines bill is an excellent instrument with which to rob the charitable institutions in order to provide easy berths for the heelers of the "easy" boss.

By assuming that he had the St. Louis nomination on the first ballot, Mr. McKinley is able to figure out a severe loss on every batch of delegates actually elected.

Speaker Tom Reed is reasonably happy. Up to the present time the "favorite son" candidates have not begun to sprout extensively in the New England States.

Mr. Hiseock declares that, no matter what happens, he will stick to Mr. Platt. A few more sticks like this and it will be necessary for Mr. Platt to go on a political dry dock and be treated to "naclies."

Lat's fences up in Erie County are in a badly dilapidated condition, even the perennial freshness on boom is having any in-anti-Plattites in that State.

There are a great many small political interests trying to collect toll off of the Greater New York movement, but, sooner or later, they will all be forced to stand on one side and permit public sentiment to prevail.

The kinetoscope people would have encountered another failure had they attempted to reproduce the showing which McKinleyism made in the United States Senate. Its knock-out was speedy and complete.

THE SOUTH STILL SOLID.

Politics in the Southern States are in a chaotic condition. There never was so much uncertainty among the Democrats or so much assurance among the Populists as there is now. A general election is necessary to demonstrate the ascendancy of the conservative elements, and to dishearten the freaks and charlatans, the demagogues and ranters. Governor Culberson, of Texas, now in Washington, states the case fairly by saying that everybody in Texas is for free silver, but, no matter whom the Democratic party nominates at Chicago, or what sort of platform is adopted, Texas will go Democratic. The Democrats, he says, will fight among themselves and threaten to bolt, but when the test comes they will support the Democratic ticket.

What is true of Texas is true of the other Southern States. The quick, earnest men, who have been managing the affairs of the people and voting the Democratic ticket for a quarter of a century, are not ready to forsake their alignment with the party for the noisy clamor of the flighty Populists, however much local influence the latter may have obtained because of the hard times. In hours of depression people are always ready to turn to anything which promises relief. Sometimes they consider a change a relief. Many Democrats have voted with the Populists simply for a change of local officers. In Kentucky there was a ring of third-rate politicians, among whom the local offices had been rotating. The advent of a Republican Governor there does not mean that Kentucky will not vote for the nominee of the Democratic party. The same is true of Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia and Tennessee.

The Populists will make a great stand in the Carolinas, where the environments are favorable, but even there the Democrats will win, because the sober sense of the people will assert itself against the vagaries and the vulgarity of Tillmanism. Senator Jones, of Arkansas, says that "Morrison's views do not meet the demands of the silver Democrats," and intimates that some other man's views are more acceptable—very likely referring to Mr. W. C. Whitney, who has just been nominated in the adjoining State. In the States of Virginia, Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana the Populists have a little influence, while in Alabama

and Georgia their power for evil ceased after they got a few offices. The Southern States will send delegates to the Chicago Convention prepared to liberate, and after selecting a candidate they will return to carry their respective States for him. The South is still Democratic.

The Produce Exchange fight against railway freight discriminations ought to be New York's fight. It affects all trades.

THE DEFENSE OF OUR COASTS.

Senator Proctor is one of those who think that the one hundred and ten millions already expended on our Navy would have been better spent in rendering our ocean front impregnable. This is a mistake which has been made by several eminent persons, and which has thus far served no purpose except to retard preparations against a possible invasion. We need a strong Navy to carry the flag round the world, and to enforce respect for it in many places where it has hitherto not been respected at all. We also need at least a hundred millions worth of coast and harbor fortifications to guard against sudden incursions, levying of contributions on cities immediately after a declaration of war, etc. If we leave our coasts unprotected we shall furnish an isolated example of a nation which believes itself above the need of land defenses of the modern pattern. The natural result will be that at some unexpected moment we shall receive an unpleasant lesson, the record of which it will not be agreeable to place in our archives.

We have entered upon an epoch of International questions. Each month brings its quota of foreign matters in which we are interested, and from which we cannot hold aloof as we did of old. We need to speak our minds freely, and now and then to declare our policy imperatively. It must be clear to most thinking men that we shall not be listened to with absolute respect if by our negligence we invite successful attack. There was a time when England's "white sea wall" was inadequately defended, and when the Continental powers, just entering upon the period of monstrous armaments, pretended not to listen when she spoke. But when England girdled her island coast with steel and iron, and made it so that an enemy, were he as brave as William the Conqueror, could not land anywhere without receiving the converging fire of two gigantic forts, they were somewhat more attentive.

In arming our coasts we are not merely providing against the possibility of a national humiliation. We are strengthening our position on every international topic upon which we are obliged to declare ourselves. We want more guns, built in the Government foundries and in private establishments, also, at a rate which will enable us to show satisfactory progress in defence. This powerful nation can afford the cost of a full equipment of every defensible point. It cannot afford to neglect the matter another year. At this very hour questions are pending which might bring on hostilities with nations possessing powerful navies. This fact alone should plead eloquently for haste and thoroughness in arming the coasts.

Having written letters innumerable and published pamphlets, Sackville West and Dunraven might join in a brief of American grievances.

TEXT BOOKS IN SCHOOLS.

There is a rising opposition to the text books of physiology recently introduced into our public schools. We suspect that this is mere squeamishness. There is much better ground for complaint against other text books which are the basis of our system. There are at least ten grammars used, and they are contradictory. There are a double score of geographies and four-score readers.

It is left to the principal to select, and the result is that each school follows the lead of its own principal, the Board of Education merely playing the part of an unseen Providence that doesn't interfere with these parish preferences. Central and controlling brains appear to have been forgotten in making up the system.

Gorman, the organizer; Cockran, the eloquent; Croker, the manager; Waterson, the platform maker; Fairchild, the harmonizer, will be notable absentees from the Chicago Convention.

A NEW STATE LINE.

Quite aside from, and overshadowing in its far-reaching importance, the unjust details of the Raines bill, is the consideration that this strictly partisan measure is the boldest declaration yet made by an unscrupulous Boss that he intends to use the vast revenues obtainable from a Democratic city to bolster and perfect the workings of his Republican State machine. The unperurbed confidence of Mr. Platt in his scheme, and the profound conviction that neither moral nor political opposition can prevent him from having his own way, is simply strengthening the conviction long held in this city, but seldom openly expressed, that, sooner or later, the line of cleavage in sentiment between the rural and the municipal New York will become a line of cleavage in fact.

It is morally impossible for two sections of the same State, with views so diametrically opposed, to get along forever on a geographical compromise. If

a single politician in the rural districts demonstrates his power to govern New York, contrary to its wishes, by means of a self-aggrandizing system of his own making, there must come in time the question whether it would not be better for all hands if a new State line were drawn. It would not be in any sense a question of secession, but merely one of division, in which the two unlike States should each be allowed some semblance of home rule.

Mr. Platt will be responsible for the growth of this feeling, for he insists upon bringing home to the comprehension of every man in New York the most preposterous act of political tyranny that any city ever helplessly groined under.

Every incident of Miss Flagler's case is extraordinary. Officials could not apply rules and laws; non-officials find that easy.

GREATER NEW YORK'S FAIR.

London and Paris do not ignore the country customer. They attract him in every possible way known to individual merchants, to the trade associations, and to the municipal authorities. Paris has, in the latter half of the century, given three expositions to entice the world to her shops, and is contemplating another, although the World's Fair at Chicago set such a high standard of exhibits, location, arrangement and landscape effects that the projectors have despaired of making one that could surpass it. But Paris makes herself attractive in schools of art, in the theatres maintained at public expense, by the unrivalled skill of her cooks, and by the irrepressible and infectious gaiety of her people.

When Walter Besant suggested the People's Palace in one of his novels he was at first regarded as a visionary idealist. Over two years ago the Prince of Wales dedicated the Colonial Institute in London in a building more beautiful, on a scheme more comprehensive than the novelist had dreamed of. There the resources of the provinces and colonies of the Imperial domain are gathered and epitomized. It is a resort for the colonists who visit London. There all the arts, industries and products of the empire are to be seen. The Institute is conducted on the most liberal scale. It assists emigrants who wish information concerning the colonies, and furnishes a vast exchange for visitors or traders who would otherwise be lost in the maze of a great city's markets.

New York makes similar bids now and then to attract visitors by exhibits in special lines of trade, but since the Crystal Palace, in 1855, there has been no effort of importance to induce business men to come here to buy or sell their wares. The citizens of New York seem to rely on the location of the city, its size and the energy of its individual merchants for a continuation of its unexampled growth as a commercial and financial centre. There is little doubt of that continuance, but there is no reason why that growth should not be stimulated. This is the place to hold a great exhibition of all the products of the Southern States. This is the nearest, the greatest and the best market for cotton, sugar, rice, wheat, corn, lumber, turpentine, fruits, iron and all the products of the South. New York should be able to awaken enough civic pride to set about giving an exposition in 1898 that will attract exhibitors and visitors from all sections of this country, and, also, from the South American Republics. Why not have a series of exhibitions, such as have proved so successful in London? Where are the enterprising New Yorkers who will make an exposition that will be worthy of Greater New York?

The petition signed by one hundred and fifteen thousand names, asking for a more liberal law on the Sunday opening of saloons, presented at Albany on Thursday, is worth thinking about. After the great manifestation of last Fall it is clear that large classes of our population attach much importance to the opening of respectable drinking places at certain hours on Sunday. The majority has rudely repulsed them hitherto, but, in view of their persistence, and of the current of indignation manifested against the Raines bill, it may experience a change of heart. Among the signers of the monster petition are many of the most prominent public men of New York. An Excise law made without a provision for "Sunday opening" can never be popular, for it is plainly against the sentiment of the majority of the community.

There is no longer any doubt of the attitude of Congress toward Cuba. The debate in the Senate yesterday afternoon was full of praise of the valorous insurgents, and of comparisons of their struggle for independence with ours. A concurrent resolution recognizing the patriots as belligerents, and requesting the President to exercise his friendly offices with Spain to secure the independence of Cuba, is likely to be the outcome of the debate in both Houses. The concurrent resolution is not binding upon the Executive, but may be regarded as a simple expression of the wish of Congress. A joint resolution, however, would require more prompt action, and might lead to a reversal of some of the positions taken by our State Department. As yet there is no comment from Spain upon the evident determination of the United States to help Cuba. It will soon come, and be all the hotter for the delay.

SENATOR VEST'S CUBAN SPEECH IN FULL.

Spain, the Toothless Old Wolf, Cannot Retain Her Single Remaining Cub—She Sits Helpless, Like Giant Despair, Watching the Procession of Republics.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Hon. George Vest, Senator from Missouri, spoke on the Cuban question as follows yesterday:

Mr. President: If the Senator from California (Mr. White) is correct in regard to what should be done as to recognizing the independence of a country at war with another attempting to assert its independence, then until the whole result has been achieved by that country itself we are powerless in the premises. We must wait, according to the Senator from California, until all vestige of Spanish power has been swept by force of arms from the island of Cuba before we can, without violating international law, recognize the independence of that struggling people.

If that be the doctrine of international law, where would be the Government of the United States to-day and the people in the United States? Instead of assembling here as Senators from sovereign States under the constitution of a free country, this would be another Dominion Parliament like that of Canada, and the United States of America would simply be an appendage of the British throne. If France had acted upon the doctrine announced by the Senator from California and waited until our fathers had achieved their own independence, the result would have been far different, and we to-day would have been English subjects, instead of free citizens of a free country.

When I heard the Senator from Maine (Mr. Frye), our President pro tempore, read the wonderful farewell address of the Father of His Country last Saturday, I was struck with the argument which Washington felt himself called upon to make in defence of his proclamation of neutrality in 1793. In all the life of that most remarkable man, the greatest in all respects the world has ever produced, there is no episode more startling or interesting than the history of his issuing the proclamation in 1793 which declared that the people of the United States would remain neutral in the struggle between France and the combined armies of Europe. France, with a disinterestedness which, I say, has put a debt of undying gratitude upon us and our children, had sent her armies and fleets to help us in a struggle with the throne of England. When the Continental armies combined against France, and when the soldiers of France had marched across the Continent fighting the world in arms, with their flags upon which was emblazoned "Death to tyrants and liberty to all," Washington refused to give one dollar or to send one man to assist our former allies, although England headed the combination against republican France.

It is a singular fact that while to-day we almost defy Washington, while he is now and will always, so long as a single colony of Americans can be found, be "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen," at the time when he issued that proclamation, with the assistance of Jefferson, a mob gathered around his private residence, then the Executive Mansion, and personal violence was absolutely threatened to the President of the United States and the savior of the Republic.

I do not agree with the views of the Senator from California as to the recognition of the independence of a foreign country or a foreign people struggling for their rights to self-government. If the doctrine be correct that all vestige of military power on the part of the mother country or the country that seeks to put down the insurrection must be swept away before we can act, then our action is simply brutal, inhuman, and amounts to nothing. The people themselves have already struck the blow that made them free, and we can only accept the results and say that the fiat of the God of Battles has been put upon their endeavor to assert their right to govern themselves. If we, as the great Republic of the world, mean to stand by these people, who are imitating us and endeavoring to make a government for themselves like that of this country, we must help them in their hour of need, and if we do not go so far as to do it by arms, which is not advocated by anybody in this chamber or out of it, we can at least do it by stating to the world that we believe the attempt of the monarchy of Spain to suppress this insurrection, as they term it, this endeavor to form a republic upon the island of Cuba, is absolutely hopeless and desperate, as I believe under God it is to-day, that they will never come the hour when Spain can reassert her dominion over the island of Cuba.

Sir, the course of Spain upon this continent is marked with blood. There was a time when the Spanish dominion extended almost from the southern limits of the United States to the farthest and southernmost point in South America. No American can ever forget those burning pages of Prescott that describe the conquest of Mexico and the conquest of Peru, when the Spaniards, with the lust for gold and the lust for blood, marked their terrible pathway across the countries lying south of us. Of all those vast dominions won by blood, won through torture and fire, there remains to-day this toothless old wolf the single island of Cuba. And Spain to-day, like Giant Despair in that wonderful picture of Bunyan, almost helpless, sits at the door of the dark cave of despotism and grins with impotent rage at the procession of splendid republics that march on in the progress toward civilization and liberty.

That wolf can never retain that single cub. Neither can Spain hold the island of Cuba within sight of the Republic of the United States, but five hours away from us, after she has lost all the South American provinces; after she has been unable to hold one foot of soil south of us in all the wide area of the southern half of this continent.

My friend from Texas handed me, some months ago, a singular paper, taken from one of the letters of Mr. Jefferson. It sounds to-day almost like prophecy:

Napoleon will certainly give his consent without difficulty to our receiving the Floridas, and with some difficulty possibly Cuba.

That he would give us the Floridas to withhold intercourse with the residue of the colonies cannot be doubted. But that is not the price we are to pay for the first moment of the first war, and until a war they are of no particular necessity to us. But, although with difficulty, he will consent to our receiving Cuba into our Union, to prevent our aid to Mexico and other provinces. That would be a price, and I would immediately erect a column on the southern limit of Cuba and inscribe on it "No Plus Ultra," as to us, in that direction. We cannot limit Cuba and inscribe on it "No Plus Ultra," as to us, in that direction. We cannot limit Cuba and inscribe on it "No Plus Ultra," as to us, in that direction. We cannot limit Cuba and inscribe on it "No Plus Ultra," as to us, in that direction.

Mr. Gray asked whether Mr. Vest did not gather from Jefferson's letter that Cuba should be acquired by purchase. Mr. Vest said there was no doubt of it. Then Mr. Gray inquired what other method was left to the United States, then, of acquiring Cuba, or of making it an independence, except by going to war with Spain, in order to achieve that status of independence that could not now be recognized as a fact. "I believe Cuba can achieve her own independence," said Mr. Gray, "but whether she has done so or not is a matter of fact."

Mr. Vest said the question was whether Spain could continue to hold Cuba as a province. Cuba to-day had the power to achieve her own independence, he believed.

Senator Vest—This thing a year ago was an enigma, as the French call it. A mere handful of men called brigands upon the eastern coast commenced it, and they were hung, butchered as pirates and denounced as hostes humani generis. What to-day do we find on that island? Every Cuban is a patriot. They have given up home, they have given up their families, they have given up all except the hope of liberty. Do you tell me that such a people can be conquered? The Spaniards may exterminate them, but they will never, never make them again unwilling subjects to the Spanish throne.

Mr. Lindsay—I should like to ask the Senator from Missouri what proportion, if any, of the people of Cuba are in sympathy with Spain in her attempt to suppress this revolution.

Mr. Vest—None, from my information, and I have read from the Spanish press, for the Cubans have no press. No instance can be found in which a people, combined and federated and unanimous as they are, a million and a half of people, have ever been subjugated except by extermination.

We are told now that these are negroes, mulattoes, Indians who are fighting for independence. So much the more cause why we should sympathize with them and say "God help them!" in their dire extremity. Liberty lives with the poor and the oppressed, not with the wealthy and the powerful. It throbs in the breast of the caged bird, and has gone with martyrs to the stake and kissed their burning lips as the spirit winged its flight to God. Liberty cannot be extinguished when a people are unanimous in defence of the rights which God has given them. If these people, ignorant and poor, struggling against this despotism, have imitated us, why should we content ourselves with the poor expression of sympathy with their cause? It is a mere farce for us to do anything else than declare before the world that we believe the cause of the Spaniard is hopeless in the island of Cuba. Each Senator must answer that for himself. I deny and I repudiate the doctrine that all vestige of Spanish power shall be eliminated from Cuba before we can recognize the independence of that people.

Reverting again to that wonderful letter of Jefferson, it has been said in criticism that in 1800, when Mr. Jefferson wrote it, he was simply writing in the interest of extending the slave power by annexing Cuba to the South. My answer is that never in one hour or minute of his life did Mr. Jefferson want to extend the area of slavery. Of all the men in this country who opposed slavery, Thomas Jefferson was the foremost. When he was twenty-three years old and went—a homeless boy—into the House of Burgesses in Virginia as a delegate from his native county of Albemarle, his first measure was a bill for the gradual removal of slavery from the soil of Virginia, and, although a slave-holder all his life by inheritance, the last act of his trembling and dying hand was to emancipate his slaves and cause their removal to the Northwest Territory, which he had made free soil for all time to come. Mr. Jefferson, it will be seen in that letter, wanted Cuba annexed peacefully by purchase, as the Floridas were purchased from Spain. He did not seek to conquer the country and wrest it away from the Spanish power. But it will be observed that nowhere does he cherish the idea that this country can hold any colony, any province, any more appendage to its sovereignty. Every particle of our territory must be either a Territory or a State, because our Constitution contemplates no other relation between the people and the National Government except as citizens of Territories, incipient States and of States themselves.

I admit—but it is not necessary to discuss it here—that the ultimate and logical result of independence in Cuba would be that it would become a part of the United States. While I resisted on the Hawaiian question the project which was brought here to annex Hawaii to the United States, I did it upon the ground that it would necessitate an immense naval force, which Mr. Jefferson, in that letter, says is to be avoided and deprecated. And he laid down as the criterion for the acquisition of territory outside of our compact area the query whether it would require a naval force to maintain and keep it as an integral portion of the Union. He states, and I believe it to be true, that no navy would be necessary to hold Cuba as a State, or part of a State, within the American confederacy.

We are confronted now with one overwhelming, overruling, absolute and determinate question in this debate. Shall we, the great exemplar of republican institutions throughout the world, declare that in our opinion the people of Cuba are able to maintain their independence and have achieved it? Are we to wait until that island is desolated by fire and sword? Are we, a Christian and God-fearing people, to stand silent and dumb while the Spanish Governor, called a General, declares that he intends to pen up the people of Cuba and butcher them into subjection to the Spanish throne? Sir, if we do it, God will curse us. If we do this thing and stand here until a desert has been made of that splendid island, you may be certain that the time will come when there will be retribution upon us as a people, because we have not been true to the task assigned us by Providence, because we have not cherished the legacy of self-government as bequeathed to us by our fathers. (Applause in the galleries.)

